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December
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Greens target climate caucus members as tax vote nears

Josh Kurtz, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2017-12-12 06:42:52

As a complicated and controversial tax reform package moves closer to final passage this week, environmental groups are increasing the pressure on Republican members of the House Climate Solutions Caucus to vote against the measure. The political action committee Climate Hawks Vote launched a petition drive late last week targeting the 31 GOP members of the bipartisan caucus, which has pledged to work to address climate change.

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FERC resets its review of Perry grid plan

Sam Mintz, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2017-12-12 06:43:18

On Thursday, new Chairman Kevin McIntyre was sworn in and promptly asked for a 30-day extension, which was granted Friday by Energy Secretary Rick Perry. Now FERC will undertake a reset of sorts, as McIntyre and fellow Commissioner Richard Glick, who also joined the agency in the last two weeks, take a look at the 1,500 comments FERC has received on DOE's directive. The new commissioners alter the political calculus for supporters and critics of the plan, who have been trying to predict how the final votes might fall. [[read more ...](#)]

First step to replace climate rule coming this month — EPA

Robin Bravender, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2017-12-12 06:43:36

The Trump administration plans to take its first formal step toward replacing the Clean Power Plan by the end of December. U.S. EPA is expected to announce that it's drafting a replacement rule even as it continues the process of repealing the Obama administration's signature climate change rule, which aimed to slash greenhouse gas emissions at power plants. [[read more ...](#)]

Wind energy is supposed to help fight climate change. It turns

out climate change is fighting back.

By Chris Mooney, Washington Post • • Posted 2017-12-12 06:44:04

A changing climate is beginning to change wind energy's potential to provide power in key regions, part of what could be a broader diminishment of a key renewable energy source in part of the world, according to two scientific studies. The world is turning more and more to renewable sources of energy – wind, solar power, and in some cases energy from flowing water – to fight climate change. But what if climate change itself alters the distribution of wind, or sunlight falling on the Earth's surface, or river flows, and so changes or even shrinks the potential of these energy sources? [[read more ...](#)]

'Wake' mystery is mostly fixed, helping turbines best coal

John Fialka, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2017-12-12 06:44:35

Since 2005, as utilities and consumers began to understand the future economic and environmental benefits of installing more wind power, the nation's capacity for turning wind into electricity has multiplied 10 times. There are now more than 52,000 whirling turbines, and because the price of wind power continues to drop, this forest of rotating blades is expected to grow. Driven by federal and state subsidies, it began as a remarkable leap of faith into a poorly understood technology. Some American engineers and scientists working on it suspected it would be a hard problem. Despite the enthusiasm of environmental groups and the tendencies of a growing number of utilities to harness the breeze, pieces of this puzzle were still missing. [[read more ...](#)]

Trump admin to launch 'clean coal' effort

Zack Colman, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2017-12-12 06:45:05

The White House is launching an effort to expand the use of U.S. coal abroad by cooperating with countries that are highly reliant on the fossil fuel. White House energy aide George David Banks is leading the effort known as the "Clean Coal Alliance," though the official said it will likely include natural gas exports, as well. The Energy Department is taking the departmental lead, according to State Department spokesman Scott Lueders. DOE did not respond to a request for comment. [[read more ...](#)]

Sources: Trump supports Pruitt's plan to question science

Robin Bravender, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2017-12-12 06:45:21

President Trump has privately said he supports a public debate to challenge mainstream climate science, according to administration officials. But there's infighting about how it should occur — if at all. The president has told U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt during several conversations that he supports Pruitt's plan for a "red-team, blue-team" debate aimed at challenging the prevailing scientific consensus about humans' impact on climate change, a senior administration official told E&E News. Another administration official said that "there is support for the initiative at the highest levels." [[read more ...](#)]

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